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The American Kaleidoscope of the Orient

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Stellingen
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The American Kaleidoscope of the Orient

van

Aynur Erdogan

1. Contrary to those scholars who have sought to chart biased images and ideas of the Orient in Western (and American) imaginations, the vast array of primary sources discussed in this dissertation demonstrates that the Orient in early America became an analytical tool to nuance key debates that characterized the decades of instability in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
2. The Franco-Ottoman alliance, established in 1536 between Francis I and Süleyman the Magnificent, provided the diplomatic framework for a transnational and transcultural cultural exchange that flourished in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
3. The *One Thousand and One Nights* can be considered a *belle infidèle*. At the same time, Galland's collection provided a corpus of images, characters, and plots for other Oriental tales that populated the many short-lived American magazines.
4. An extended period of incubation was necessary prior to the emergence of American kaleidoscopic representations of the Orient.
5. The kaleidoscope is a productive model for cultural analysis because it focuses on transnational dynamics, textual mobility as well as adaptation and metonymization processes.
6. There are a number of philosophical texts relevant in Enlightenment ideology, which were removed from a Christian (or religious) discourse, secularized, and placed into an Oriental setting.
7. What Americans understood slavery to be, and what they communicated to their fellow citizens at home was not the same thing that the Algerian and Moroccan Deys and Beys who enslaved them meant.
8. Thomas Jefferson owned a copy of Nicolas-Antoine Boulanger's *Origins of Oriental Despotism*.
9. "We have to do with the past only as we can make it useful to the present and to the future."
Frederick Douglass, "The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro" (1852)
10. Persians are not Turks, and Turks are not Berbers, and Arabs are different again. And for all we can tell they are not happy, if they are confused with each other.